

JAPANESE INDICTMENT OF RUSSIA AND REPLY TO CHARGES OF TREASON

Czar's Government Shown to Have
Been Preparing for War
While Talking Peace.

DUPLICITY IS ALLEGED
Extraordinary Naval and Military
Increase of Forces During the
Late Negotiations.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—The following authorized statement received to-day from his government is given out by the Japanese minister: "The Russian government has charged Japan with having treacherously obtained a victory by a sudden attack upon Russia, which was bent on maintaining peace. It is further asserted in these communications that since a rupture of diplomatic relations can never be looked on as the opening of hostilities, and since Japan did not issue a declaration of war until the 15th of February, she has been guilty of a flagrant breach of the principles of international law in making, as early as the 8th of February, most unwarranted attacks on Russian men-of-war and merchant vessels."

"The answer to these charges may be found in the action of Russia herself. That her government never entertained any sincere desire for peace can be clearly seen from its own conduct. Throughout the whole course of the negotiations Russia persistently refused to meet the proposals made by Japan in a moderate and conciliatory spirit. By delays that could not be construed as otherwise than wanton and unnecessary she put off the settlement of the questions at issue while at the same time busily extending her naval and military preparations. Her warlike preparations in the far East since last April, when she failed to carry out her treaty engagement to evacuate Manchuria, are in full confirmation of these statements. During that time the increase made in her naval strength in the far East was as follows: Three battleships, tonnage 23,488; one cruiser, tonnage 7,735; five cruisers, tonnage 2,447; seven destroyers, tonnage 2,440; one gunboat, tonnage 1,000; two vessels for laying mines, tonnage 6,000; total number of vessels 19, with a total tonnage of 32,415. In addition to these vessels the Russian government sent torpedo destroyers in sections by rail to Port Arthur, where the work of putting them together was hastened, and seven of them have already been completed. Furthermore, two vessels of the volunteer fleet were armed at Vladivostok and held the Russian naval ensign. The Russian government also ordered the far East fleet to be strengthened by seven destroyers and four torpedo boats, of a total tonnage of about 3,740, which would have joined the Russian squadron in the far East had not the circumstances subsequently compelled Russia to recall them. These reinforcements, together with others brought to the far East during the progress of negotiations, would have made a total increase of Russia's naval strength of about 113,000 tons."

INCREASE IN LAND FORCES.
"During the same period the increase of Russia's land forces has been equally marked. Since the 25th of last June, when under the pretext of trial transportation on the Siberian Railway, the Russian government sent to China two infantry brigades, two artillery battalions and a military train from Russia to the far East, until at the beginning of February the total strength of the Russian forces was over 40,000. At the same time plans were being made for sending, if necessary, over 20,000 more."

"During the same period there has been the greatest activity possible at Port Arthur and at Vladivostok, and work has been carried on day and night to strengthen the fortifications of those naval ports, while large quantities of arms and ammunition have been sent to the far East by the Siberian Railway and the volunteer fleet."

In the middle of October last a train of fourteen cars was hurriedly sent from Russia, loaded with the equipment of a field hospital."

"From these military and naval preparations of every description, it is quite evident that Russia was not inclined to a friendly settlement of the questions at issue under discussion between Japan and herself, but sought solely by her military preponderance to force upon Russia her will. During the latter part of January and up to the beginning of February Russian military activity was directed toward strengthening the frontier of Korea, and on Jan. 28 a formal order to prepare for war was given by Admiral Aleksey to the forces which were stationed in the vicinity of Japan."

JAPANESE WARNED.
"On Feb. 1 the military commandant at Vladivostok, under the orders of his government, requested the Japanese commercial agent at that port to notify his nation that a state of siege might be proclaimed at any moment, and that the Japanese were preparing to withdraw to Harbinovsk."

About the same date all of the warships at Port Arthur, except a battleship then under repairs, made a naval demonstration by leaving port, while troops were advanced in large numbers from Liao-Yang toward the Yalu."

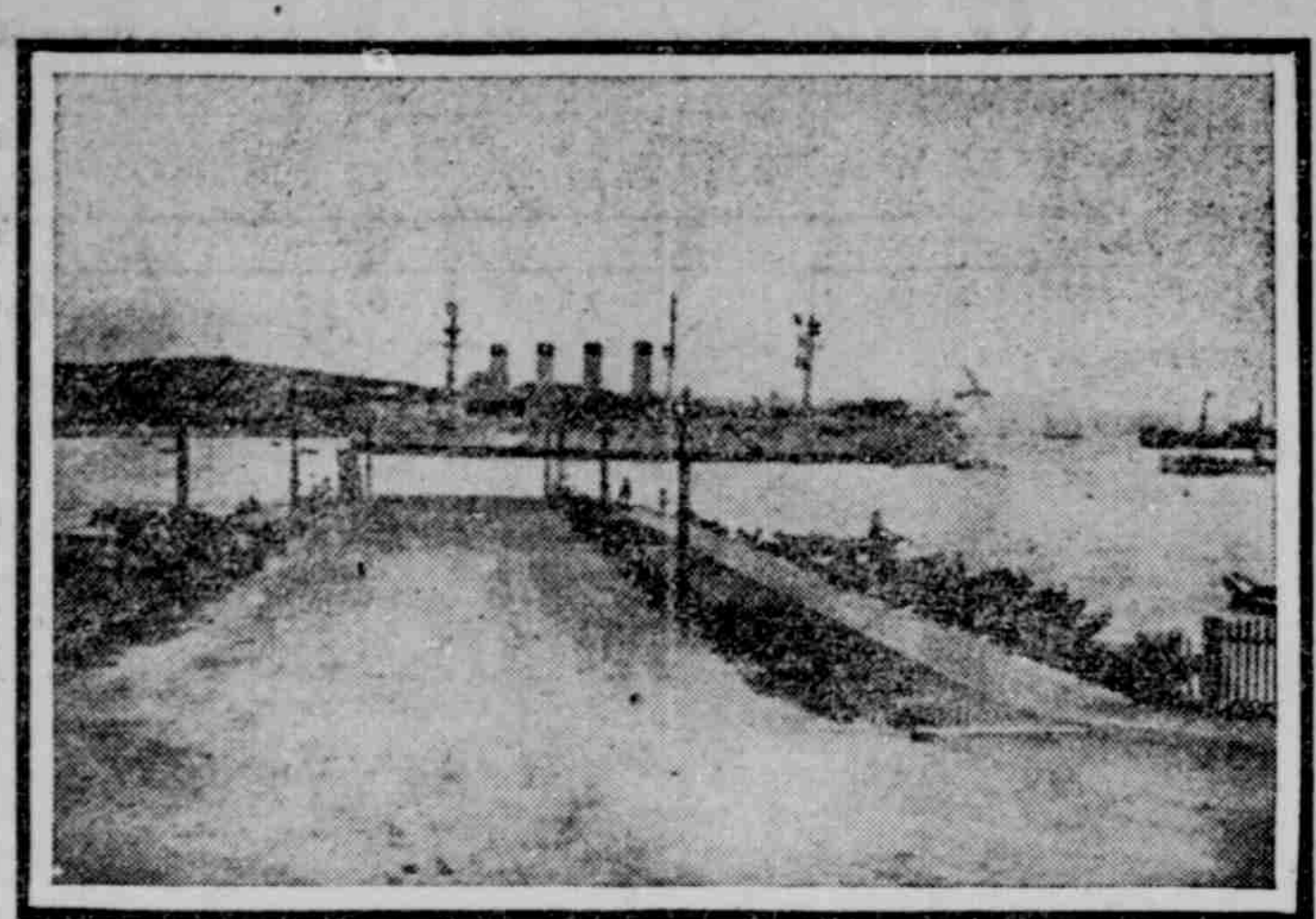
"In view of these facts who can say that Russia had no warlike intentions or that she was unprepared for war? Seeing that the situation had become so critical that it admitted of no further delay the Japanese government was compelled to break off negotiations that had proved abortive and to take the necessary steps for self-protection. But the responsibility for the challenge to war rests with Japan, and solely with Russia."

"On the 15th of February Japan announced to Russia her decision to terminate the pending negotiations and to take such independent action as she might deem best to defend her position and to protect her established rights and legitimate interests. At the same time the government of Japan informed the Russian government that as its moderate and unselfish proposals in the interests of a firm and lasting peace had not been received the consideration which was her due, Japan had resolved to sever diplomatic relations with Russia, and to take the reason stated, had ceased to possess value and to withdraw her legation."

"The term, independent action, naturally included the opening of hostilities. The fact that Russia was unable to understand in that light her own reasons why Japan should be held responsible for the misinterpretation made by Russia. It is the almost unanimous opinion of international jurists that a declaration of war is not an indispensable prerequisite to the opening of hostilities. Indeed it has been the common practice in recent wars to declare war after hostilities have begun. Japan's action, therefore, is not open to the least criticism in this regard. From the standpoint of international law it must be understood that the charges made by Russia do not come with good grace from Russia, inasmuch as there are not only many historical instances of Russia herself resorting to hostilities without declaring war, but one case, that of her invasion of Finland in 1808, when she began war before there had even been a rupture of diplomatic relations."

CHARTERS CANCELED.
About 1,000 Corporations Put Out
of Business in Illinois.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., March 1.—Charters of 1,000 corporations doing business in Illinois have been canceled by the secretary of state for failure to comply with the law which requires annual statements. Monday was the last day on which reports could be filed and a large number have defaulted. About two hundred reports were received at the office of the secretary to-day, but whether or not they will be recorded is yet to be determined. Most of the charters canceled are those of Chicago corporations.



VIEW OF THE HARBOR OF VLADIVOSTOK, SHOWING THE RUSSIAN BATTLESHIP ROSLA. FROM A SNAPSHOT TAKEN BY SENATOR BEVERIDGE.

Land Engagements May Be Reported in a Few Days in Northern Korea

(CONCLUDED FROM FIRST PAGE.)

ried men full wages and the unmarried men half pay.

Letters from Vladivostok dated Feb. 15 say that the warships in the harbor on that date were the Russia, Gromobol and Kurik and the transport Moskova. The port was frozen hard and the ice breaker was scarcely able to clear the channel.

Two Japanese attempted to blow up a dock at Vladivostok but did not succeed. They escaped.

A Japanese harbor at Vladivostok, decimated himself by a Russian officer, shot him dead and then dramatically announced that he was a captain on the Japanese general staff and was not used to taking insults.

BRITAIN AND AMERICA
MAY ACT TOGETHER

WASHINGTON, March 1.—There was a long conference at the State Department after the Cabinet meeting to-day between Secretary Hay and Sir Mortimer Durand, the British ambassador, on several phases of the far Eastern war. The Russian government's declaration of nonbelligerence of war is naturally a question jointly vital to the two English-speaking countries. In fact, this is one of many questions which have a dual interest to the United States and Great Britain, because of the interests of the far East, and also because both countries are strongly under Russian suspicion. This last fact concerning the affair. Combining simultaneously with the understanding between the London and Washington governments regarding their fulfillment of the neutrality obligations. It can be stated for both governments that it is their firm intention to observe complete neutrality, losing no opportunity, however, to adequately protect their own interests.

MAY ALLAY ILL FEELING
OF THE RUSSIANS

ST. PETERSBURG, March 1.—All the papers here print prominently this morning, but without comment, Commander Marshall's report of the Vicksburg incident off Okuchulpo, Korea, and the reasons assigned in the United States for his not uniting in the protest of the other naval commanders against the action of the Japanese. These statements will doubtless clear up the misapprehension existing here regarding the affair. Combining simultaneously with the understanding between the London and Washington governments regarding their fulfillment of the neutrality obligations. It can be stated for both governments that it is their firm intention to observe complete neutrality, losing no opportunity, however, to adequately protect their own interests.

SCHOOLS FOR NURSES
AT VLADIVOSTOK

VLADIVOSTOK, March 1.—Certain Russian newspaper correspondents and residents of Vladivostok, who left here a short while ago, have returned. They say they found the conditions of living at Nikolai and Harbin to be less favorable than here. Everything is quiet at Vladivostok. The rise in the price of provisions has been slight, and trade continues. The blizzard has ceased, and there are now snowdrifts stretching for sixty or seventy miles from the fortress.

Schools have been started here for the instruction of hospital nurses, who are recruited from among the wives and daughters of the Japanese soldiers. Among them is the wife of Colonel Von Senetz, commandant at Vladivostok.

JAPANESE WARSHIPS
SEEN OFF VLADIVOSTOK

PARIS, March 1.—The Matin this morning publishes a dispatch from its Harbin correspondent, which says:

"A private letter from Harbin, dated Feb. 25, asserts that on Feb. 25 nine Japanese warships appeared off the roadstead there and remained the greater part of the day. They finally departed without firing."

The native governor of the Province of Khabarovsk, who is a Russianophile, has been ordered to take the necessary steps for self-protection. But the responsibility for the challenge to war rests with Japan, and solely with Russia."

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KOREA'S FATE SEALED IF RUSSIA DEFEATS JAPAN

Hermit Kingdom May Appeal to
the United States for Sym-
pathy and Support.

ALL EUROPE'S EARS DEAF

PARIS, March 1.—In anticipation of the negotiations which will follow the Russo-Japanese war, the Korean officials in Europe are turning their attention to the powers which give their country support. It is feared that Japan, even if victorious, will find that she cannot live up to the high principles to which she pledged herself, particularly if the war be long drawn out. Her expenses and losses will be great and Korea, having been occupied and serving as a field of battle, will be one of the subjects of negotiations. If Russia is victorious, Korea's fate, so far as Russian diplomacy can make it, is sealed.

A consideration of the attitude of the European powers shows that Korea has little to hope. Those who expect Great Britain to be expected to agree to greater Japan control over the Hermit Kingdom, while France and Germany would not oppose Russia in the event of her being victorious. The hopes of the Koreans, therefore, are centering on the United States and as soon as the cable and other lines of communication are restored it is understood that representations will be made to the Korean government with a view to inducing it to designate a leading diplomat as minister at Washington, the post now being occupied by a chargé d'affaires.

The Korean government will be urged to authorize its agents to accept of a mission to arouse the interests of the American people in Korea and when the negotiations are begun then a leading diplomat as minister at Washington, the post now being occupied by a chargé d'affaires.

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TAKAHIRA TELLS WHY JAPAN RESISTS RUSSIA

Salvation of the Mikado's King-
dom Depends on Checking
Russian Encroachments.

JAPAN NOT AMBITIOUS

NEW YORK, March 1.—Under the title "Why Japan Resists Russia," Mr. Takahira, the Japanese minister at Washington, discusses the cause of the present conflict in the forthcoming number of the North American Review.

Mr. Takahira points out the grounds for his government's belief that Russia's encroachments in the far East were a menace to Japan, inasmuch as the absorption of Manchuria meant "the inevitable sequence of such action, the absorption of Korea."

After explaining in detail the events that led up to the war, he says: "There is no foundation for the belief that Japan was prompted to war by ambition, or that her success, if happily successful, implies any danger to other nations. To the thoughtful Japanese, there can be no greater cause for wonder than the one-sided Caucasian on the other. To them, it seems no more than a chimerical dream, a suggestion of the memories of the age of Genghis Khan, impossible of achievement in these better days of intimate intercourse and mutual interdependence among all nations."

"Let me add, also, that those who endeavor to attach some measure of reproach to Japan by characterizing this as a war between a Christian and a non-Christian, fail utterly to appreciate the efforts my countrymen have made to conform to the spirit as well as to the practice of modern civilization. Freedom of religious belief is as firmly guaranteed in Japan as in any country in the world; and the belief that rectitude of thought and conduct will be as fully exemplified by the actions of my countrymen during the present struggle as by those of their adversaries, is as firmly held here as elsewhere. I yet not desirous of escaping judgment founded on knowledge, we do not fear to have the light of exposure from narrow minded criticism based on the prejudices of race or of creed."

UNION MANDATED TO
RESTORE A MEMBER

Unusual Action of Court at San Francisco Affecting the Tractmen's Organization.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 1.—Superior Judge Hebbard to-day in a decision granted the prayer of George Dingwell in his action for the issuance of a writ of mandate to compel the Amalgamated Association of Streetcar Employees of America to reinstate him to membership. He and others were some time ago expelled and fined for having violated obligations, held secret meetings and conspired against the international association.

The court held that Dingwell was fined and expelled on a charge not provided for by the by-laws of the association and under the laws of this State he cannot lose his standing. The writ prayed for was therefore granted.

FIGHT BETWEEN REVENUE
MEN AND MOONSHINERS

Three of the Combatants Alleged
to Have Been Killed and One
Fatally Wounded.

OWINGSVILLE, Ky., March 1.—An unconfirmed rumor received here to-night that a battle was waged to-day in the mountains of Knott county between moonshiners and revenue men. According to the rumor William and John Haddix, moonshiners, were killed and Jack Combs, a moonshiner, was fatally wounded. One deputy marshal was reported to have been injured. The report was said to be working in a cave when surprised by the revenue men, and revenue men were not yet been definitely confirmed.

AGAIN IN ALCATRAZ.

One of the Prisoners Who Escaped
on Forged Pardons.